

The Greenfield Community College NEWSLETTER

Spring 1990

EVENTS

MARCH

MARCH 5: PREMIERE OF THE MATH CONNECTION:

GCC's own math t.v. show.
Tune in Channel 6 (cable) in
Greenfield, Montague, Erving
and parts of Gill, 6:30 p.m.

MARCH 7: Lecture: Masha Arms, "Woman and Camera:

60 Years of Photography,"
sponsored by the Pioneer
Valley Institute. Performing
Arts Center, 12 noon.

MARCH 28: Readings:

NUYORICAN Poets: The
poetry of Puerto Ricans who
have grown up on the U.S.
mainland. South Gallery, 12
noon.

APRIL

APRIL 5: WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD Lecture:

Ellen S. Gannett will speak on
"The Complexity of Parenting."
Sponsored by the Early Child-
hood Education Department
and the Student Senate.
Lecture Hall, 12:30 p.m.

**APRIL 12: Annual Student
Art Exhibition Opening Re-
ception.** Live music and re-
freshments. Sponsored by the
Art Department and the
Student Senate. South
Gallery, 7 p.m.

**Pioneer Valley
Institute Calendar
on Page 6**



From left: Roland Campbell, Perry Cole, John Pride, Jim Franklin, Wayne Collier and Dave Robert in the new mini-theater. (Media Center photo)

Team work, innovation create a new mini-theater for GCC

"No matter how difficult times get, we can still do creative things in a quality manner," says GCC Dean of Administrative Service Charles Carter.

Anyone looking for proof of that statement should stop by and take a look at S01, an ugly duckling of a music room that is about to become a swan of a mini-theater, thanks to the hard work of the GCC Constructional Maintenance and Electrical Control crews.

The project began in November of 1989 has been running as smoothly as can be expected, according to the group, except for delays in receiving purchased equipment.

The new facility features a permanent, state-of-the-art lighting system, wall-to-wall carpeting and separate lighting and

audio control booths.

The designers, architects and builders of the new facility are Roland Campbell, carpenter; Wayne Collier, electrician; James Franklin, instrument technician; Frank Hill, electrician; Jim Parent, engineer; John Pride, foreman; and David Robert, trades worker.

One of the key features of the new facility is its flexibility, say its builders. The theater is designed to be used as an assembly hall when not in use as a production hall, and the total of six miles of wiring includes extra wiring for expansion of the audio and lighting systems.

Funding for the \$42,000 project comes from a patchwork of College sources. The GCC Foundation has provided most of the

Cont. on page 2.

Student Affairs survey shows GCC graduates satisfied with their college experience

The Student Affairs staff recently released the results of surveys completed for 1988 and 1989 graduates of the college. Both surveys reveal positive attitudes toward GCC on the part of our graduates, as well as favorable influences on the subsequent activities of those responding to each of the surveys.

The 1988 survey of 236 graduates produced a response of 99 graduates for a 37 percent return. Forty-one respondents indicated that they were employed full-time in a position related to their major field of study while at GCC, and another 18 indicated part-time employment in a related area.

Forty-five responding graduates were enrolled in further college studies, 34 on a full-time basis and 11 on a part-time basis. Seventy-eight percent of all respondents noted that their GCC experience was of considerable value in furthering their subsequent activities, while a like percentage indicated that they gained considerable personal growth while at the college. Typical of the comments received was this one: "I truly

feel that my education at GCC prepared me for continuing my education at Mount Holyoke. I have only good comments to make about GCC."

The 1989 survey of 269 graduates produced a slightly lower response rate of 32 percent (87 respondents), but showed equally impressive responses. Thirty respondents indicated that they were employed full-time in a position related to their GCC studies and 18 people were employed part-time in such positions. Thirty-six graduates were enrolled in further college studies, with 29 of those being enrolled on a full-time basis. Similar to the previous year's graduates, 74 percent indicated that their GCC educational experience was of considerable value in furthering their activities following graduation. Comments from the respondents were overwhelmingly positive and included praise for both faculty and staff. One graduate wrote: "I was so glad I decided to attend GCC. The whole staff was great!"

The college has typically used graduate surveys to determine the strengths

and limitations of programs and services. Registrar Larry Dean is currently chairing an Assessment Committee which is studying additional ways in which the college can utilize to measure student performances as well as the quality of various college services. The Assessment Committee is expected to provide its initial recommendations in April.

—Hyrum H. Huskey, Jr.
Dean of Student Affairs

Math Connection set to air on cable

Editor's Note: We asked Karen Green, coordinator of The Math Connection, to tell our readers what it's like to launch a new television show at GCC. Here's her report:

I have been busy working with the GCC Math and Media faculty and teachers and kids in the community to bring all the pieces together for GCC's first live math television show, "The Math Connection." The show is designed for students in grade six through ten and is being funded by a \$25,000 Dwight D. Eisenhower Grant through the Board of Regents of Higher Education.

The best part of the job has been working with all the resources both at GCC and in the community at large. Two GCC students have created a logo and theme music for the show, and TV technician Garry Long and I spent two days painting sets that will add plenty of color to the show.

Math professor Linda Cavanaugh will be the host of the program. Lynn Benander, Math Center coordinator, has been working with teachers and small groups of elementary school students in Greenfield, Gill, Montague, and Erving, on Challenge Projects which will later be presented on the show.

One of the challenges we faced was determining what would be interesting to kids in grades six through ten. We came up with a varied format that includes

-- theater

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money, while the Student Senate is providing the stage curtain.

"The amount of money the college saved in having the project constructed by in-house personnel is at least half of what it would cost if done by an outside contractor," said Director of Development Barbara McColgan, who serves as the College liaison to the GCC Foundation.

"Given the fact the community doesn't have an adequate theater space elsewhere, the college is providing a

wonderful space for the community as well as the college," she adds.

GCC officials say the new theater will expand the opportunities for both the College and the community in a number of ways. Besides allowing the College to host more cultural events, the theater will directly benefit students.

"We could now offer a course in drama production technology specializing in, say, lighting technology or audio technology," said Franklin.

But of course, there's no one on campus happier about the new theater than Theater Dept. Director Jim Godwin. Godwin has waited years for such a project.

"No other crew could have done for the theater what these guys have done," Godwin says.

Godwin will open the new theater this April with "Cole," a review based on the life and work of Cole Porter.

—Douglas Ross

STAFF

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-- Math Connection

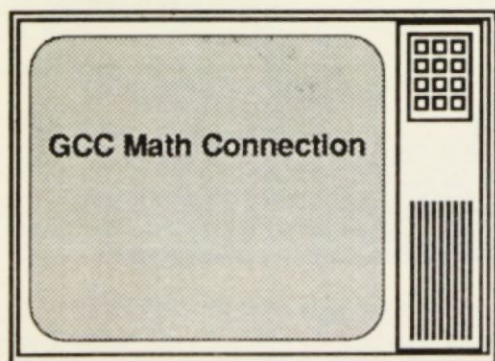
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many different segments. One segment of the show will feature local personalities who use mathematics in their work or hobby. I was amazed at the diversity of people in the community who use math in their work and their enthusiasm about their work. I spoke with David Strickland about parachuting and math, Linda Thomas about how math and skeletons connect, and Andy Lively from the Greenfield Fire Department, who will join us to talk about fire fighting and water hydraulics. The more people I spoke to about the show, the more I found myself learning about math in the world and its applications.

A special element of the show is the "Solution Square," a call-in segment for young people who have questions about math homework. Parents are invited to call in with their questions about math or math education. The show will also include the Math Question of the Week. We'll ask students to write in how they solved the problem, and one student will be selected to present his/her solution on the next show and be presented with a "Math Connection" tee-shirt.

Everyone involved in the project has been excited about our collective ability to really put this show together! It is an innovative idea that has drawn interest and enthusiasm from teachers, children, the community, and the media. Tune in Monday, March 5 at 6:30-7:00, for the first episode of "The Math Connection." The show will run for 10 weeks through May 7.

—Karen Green



ALUMNI UPDATE

Development Office seeks nominations for first Alumnus of the Year Award

Director of Development Barbara McColgan has announced the first annual Alumnus of the Year Award. The award will be presented to a male or female graduate who has contributed substantially to the community or the College. The recipient of the award will speak at this year's Commencement ceremonies June 3.

"We're launching an effort this year to form a stronger and more effective alumni network," McColgan says, "and we thought that the best way to do it would be to recognize the achievements of our graduates."

McColgan says the Development Office has sent out over 6,000 nominating forms to staff, faculty, alumni and friends of the College, and she is hoping to gather nominations as well as updated addresses of alumni.

If you are interested in nominating a

GCC graduate for the award, please send the following information to the Development Office:

- * the grad's current name and name at graduation
- * the grad's year of graduation
- * your name, address and telephone number
- * a brief statement why the graduate should be considered for the honor.

The nominee should meet the following criteria:

1. Is a GCC graduate with an Associate Degree
2. Has contributed substantially to his/her community and/or GCC
3. Has demonstrated capability to be an articulate spokesperson for GCC.

The deadline for nominations is March 8.

Student and alumni news

Thirty women completed the Business Microcomputer Applications and the Business Office Specialist Certificate programs this January. The programs are designed to train displaced homemakers and welfare recipients for entry level jobs in offices. Of the 30 students, some 16 made the Dean's List, and four students: **Angela Murcell, Priscilla Curtis, Linda Pytko and Lynn Henderson** had a GPA of 4.0...Students **Adrian Bramhall** and **Jeff Balrd** have been commended by Greenfield Tap and Die Marketing Manager Dennis Greene for their production of a training video as part of a class project in the Media Department. Greene cited the students' professionalism and hard work, adding that "they are a credit to GCC and your Media Department." Greene also donated \$500 to the GCC Foundation...**Malane Perry**, a member

of the high-flying GCC Women's Basketball team (see page 5), was cited in USA Today in December for scoring 44 points in one game...Grad **Janle Howard** was named Woman of the Year by New England Learning Center for Women in Transition (NELCWIT) this winter. Howard is an information and referral advocate for Social Service Help at the Franklin Community Action Corp. in Greenfield...Grad **Pamela J. Reipold** has been promoted to merchandise manager for JC Penney in Claremont, NH.

**Send your
alumni news to:
Arden Billings
Development Office
Greenfield Community
College**

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Geology professor **Richard Little** was featured in the November, 1989 issue of Yankee Magazine for his work to preserve the famous armored mudballs of Gill. Little, who has written extensively on the geology of the Pioneer Valley, was pictured with a large armored mudball, an example of the prehistoric rock formations that is only found in eight sites in the world.

Margaret Craig, director of nursing, received the 1989 Honorary Membership Award from the Western Massachusetts District of the Massachusetts Nurses Association. She was also recently elected to the Board of Directors of the MNA.

Transfer coordinator **Rob Yacubian** has been elected to the Executive Board of the New England Transfer Articulation Association. The group was first started in the early 1970's within the state system, and has since expanded to include all public and private two-year college transfer counselors and four year admission officers throughout New England.

Director of Health Service **Nancy Buchanan** has been named chair-elect of the Nurse-Directed section of the American College Health Association.

President **Katherine Sloan** has been named to the Valley 2000 Board of Directors, a group of local officials who are looking at issues of the Valley's future.

Lindy Whlton, former director of the Literacy Project, has joined the college staff as the coordinator for the Student Literacy Intern Program.

Psych professor **Dave Johnson** was recently promoted to 4th degree Tae Kwan Do master. Dave was also inducted into the Black Belt Hall of Fame last summer, in recognition of his contri-

butions in teaching and competition in the martial arts over the past 15 years. Dave and his competition team entered the national circuit this year and have been competing nationwide, regularly finishing in the top three.

English prof **Carolyn Nims** has been globe-hopping as a teacher for the Framingham State College International Education Program. She spent two weeks in January teaching a graduate course in English as a Second Language in Monterey, Mexico.

Security head **Valorie Knowlton** has successfully passed the Criminal Law Exam administered last summer by the Criminal Justice Training Program in Agawam.

Five members of the College's Affirmative Action Committee attended a two-day workshop at Mount Holyoke College presented by the Equity Institute entitled "Dismantling Racism." **Anne Wiley, Phyllis Nahman, Barbara McColgan** and **Mary Ellen Kelly** attended the conference, which was designed to help participants look at their own relationship to racism and the ways in which racism is institutionalized in the workplace and the community.

Counselor **Dave Patrick** attended the Colorado College Symposium on Wealth in January. The conference featured scholars, journalists, government officials and others.

Media technician **Garry Longe** produced a documentary on the events and ceremonies surrounding the installation and viewing of the Vietnam War Veterans' Memorial in Greenfield last summer.

English teacher **Joanne Hayes** served as a seminar discussion leader for the Vermont Humanities Council Annual Conference entitled "Reading Nature," an interdisciplinary view of nature writing, nature illustration and landscape painting.

Out and About at GCC

This has been the best season ever for the GCC Women's Basketball team, due in part to the performance of team captain Lauri Scott of Buckland (right). As the Newsletter goes to press, the team has a record of 21 wins and five losses, and ranks fourth in New England. Several records have been broken by the women hoopsters this year, including the most wins by a basketball team in one season, and the most points scored in one season, a record held by center Malane Perry of Orange. In addition, guard Tina Riddell of Orange has set two records: one for the most assists in a season and one for the most assists in a career. John Palmer, who is in second year of coaching women's basketball at GCC, is justifiably proud of his team, and so are we! (Photo courtesy of The Recorder)



The GCC Foundation thanked Arline Cohn for her years of volunteer service to the College by presenting her with its Eminent Service Award. Above, Foundation President Dianne Peterson (left), Arline, and President Kay Sloan. (Media Center photo)

Pioneer Valley Institute News

John Russell Cutlery exhibit at library

Through the month of February the Pioneer Valley Institute will have a special exhibit on display in the GCC Library highlighting the old John Russell Cutlery Company of Greenfield and Turners Falls. Documents and illustrations that contributed to the book published in 1976 by the Bete Press, Greenfield, have been donated to the College's Pioneer Valley Resource Center by Channing L. Bete., Co. Written by the students in the American Studies group at Deerfield Academy, the book was produced under the supervision of Robert

Merriam, Richard Davis, Jr., David Brown and Michael Buerger. (Merriam is the recently retired assistant to the president at GCC.)

Carol Letson, Resource Center librarian, has displayed items of interest to the public, including a three piece collector set of replica knives made in 1976 for the national bicentennial celebration. The knives were made by the John Russell Cutlery, a subsidiary of the Russell Harrington Cutlery, Inc. of Southbridge, "America's foremost fine cutlery since 1818."

Are you a photographer, artist, writer, historian, geologist or collector with something to share about the Pioneer Valley? Do you know someone with a story to tell about local history and traditions?

Louise Minks, coordinator of the Pioneer Valley Institute, is looking for just such resources to put into listings for use by Valley organizations as they plan their programs throughout the year.

Each of these listings will focus on the Pioneer Valley, past, present and future. If you know of a project or individual worth listing, please contact Louise at GCC, 774-3131.

Courses and Events of Interest

The following Pioneer Valley Institute workshops are offered this spring through the Division of Continuing Education:

CSW 956 - FUELS FOR THE FUTURE: CONVERTING VEHICLES FROM LIQUID TO GASEOUS SYSTEMS, Sun., Mar. 25, 1-5 p.m. - GCC \$10 (\$15 per couple)

Efforts to reduce fuel exhaust emissions and move toward energy independence have led transportation engineers to begin converting vehicles to burn natural gas. The problems and prospects of methane as a transport fuel will be examined, together with the possibility of using renewable bio-gas from composting organic materials (co-sponsored with the Institute for a Sustainable Society).

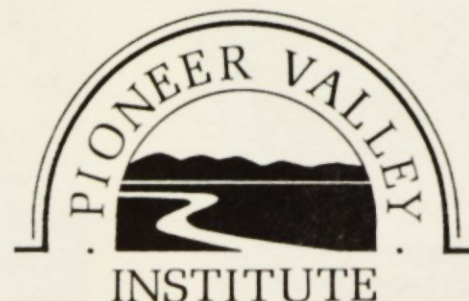
CSW 957 - TRACING FAMILIES IN THE PIONEER VALLEY: WHERE TO LOOK AND WHAT TO LOOK FOR, Sat., Apr. 21, 9 a.m.-noon - The Memorial Libraries, Deerfield, \$10 (\$15 per couple)

David Proper, librarian of the Memorial Libraries of Deerfield, will discuss sources of information in

Hampshire, Hampden and Franklin counties in this growing field of interest.

CSW 958 - MACHINES, MACHINES AND MORE, Sun., May 6, 2-4 p.m. - Orange Historical Society and Pioneer Valley Industrial Museum, Orange \$5 (\$10 per family; children of all ages welcome)

Presentations at the Orange Historical Society; visit to the Industrial Museum; plus a self-guided tour of historical industrial Orange. See a fully restored Grout automobile, collections of dolls, musical instruments, pewter, Victorian furniture and a Victorian bathroom you won't believe!



VALLEY VIEWPOINTS LECTURE SERIES

WOMEN AND CAMERA: 60 YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHY WITH MASHA ARMS
Wed., March 7, 12 noon
College Lecture Hall
Celebrating Women's History Week and the 151st year since the invention of the daguerreotype, this fascinating presentation by the photographer will be accompanied by an exhibit of her work in the College Library.

A MARRIAGE OF ROBERT FRANCIS AND ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

Fri., March 30, 12 noon
College Lecture Hall

Henry Lyman, local poet, translator and producer of WFCR's popular "Poems to a Listener," will present readings and interpretations from the works of Francis and MacLeish (co-sponsored by the Friends of the MacLeish Collection).

Valley Viewpoint lectures are open to the public at no charge.

The Silk Trade in the Pioneer Valley

The following is an excerpt from an exhibit catalogue, "Frocks and Curls: The Clothing Industry and Women's Fashions from 1850 to 1900 in Hampshire County and Vicinity." The exhibit was prepared by Carla Tscherny at Hampshire College in 1978.

The first silk mill in America was established in 1810 in Mansfield, Conn. Shortly thereafter a sudden enthusiasm for silk raising occurred throughout New England. The development of silk mills in Massachusetts began in the 1830's, when the Pioneer Valley community was "swept off its feet by the sudden prospect of wealth "from the propagation of silk worms.

One of the first silk pioneers of western Massachusetts was Samuel Whitmarsh, who, in the 1830's, built a cocoonery on a 400-acre farm he had purchased on the Mill River near Florence. The farm included 100 acres of mulberry trees, and the two-story silkworm cocoonery was able to hold more than 2 million silkworms. Whitmarsh formed the New York and Northampton Silk Company (later called the Nonotuck Silk Co.), with \$150,000 capital, and he built plants in Florence and Leeds.

In 1837 sewing silk with the trade name of "Northampton Sewing Silk" was marketed in New York City, and according to an advertisement from this period, this silk was used "by all the tailors in town." The excitement for silk agriculture continued to grow throughout the 1830's. In 1838, samples of plain and figured silk were woven in the Florence factory.

A diary from that period, kept by one Miss Stebbins, notes that her father, Dr. Stebbins, promised his wife and two daughters that "if we would take care of the (silk) worms and feed them for six weeks, he would give us each a silk dress, which we did and the three dresses were woven in King Street. These were blue black pure silk, soft and lustrous." One of the dresses still exists and belongs to the Northampton Historical Society. Due to overexposure to the sun, the dress



is badly faded but otherwise in good condition.

In 1839 the speculative bubble of silk-growing burst, bringing hundreds of people close to financial disaster. "Mulberry twigs, which had been worth nearly their weight in gold, could not be sold for ten cents a hundred." At one point during the decade, the price of mulberry trees rose from \$1 to \$3. A mulberry tree blight killed most of the trees and a severe winter followed, dealing the final blow to silk-growing in western Massachusetts. The Northampton Silk Company was closed in 1840. However, in 1843 the Florence Community bought the idle silk plant, formed a stock company with \$30,000 and continued to manufacture silk by importing raw silk from foreign countries. The Florence Community silk endeavor is most interesting as a socialist experiment. Though the company existed for only three years, it gave rise to many prominent social reformers of the era. In 1846 the Florence Community Silk Manufacturing Co. failed and was bought by S.L. Hill.

Other silk companies developed out of the original interest in silk. Warners Silk Mills, established in 1844

in Northampton, was one such factory. Another factory, called Skinner Silk, was founded in 1848 in Holyoke. S.L. Hill formed the Nonotuck Silk Co., which led to the development of one of this area's most lucrative industries. In 1852 the company employed 25 people, but by 1895 the company had grown significantly and employed nearly 800 people. In 1900 the company was the largest of the manufacturing industries in this area.

The most well-known product manufactured by the Nonotuck Silk Co. was the Corticelli Spool Silk, Sewing Silk, and Machine Twist. (The Corticelli Silk Co. was a division of the Nonotuck Co.) The first spool of machine twist silk for sewing machines ever made in America was made at the Nonotuck Co. Other products made by the Nonotuck Silk Co. were knitting silk, crochet silk, purse twist, Persian floss, embroidery silk, dental floss and surgeon's silk. The company made knit for mittens and underwear, as well as silk braiding, binding and trim. Belding Bros. Silk Mills, another company established in Northampton, began in 1874 and continued up until the 1930's.

In the Second Annual Report of

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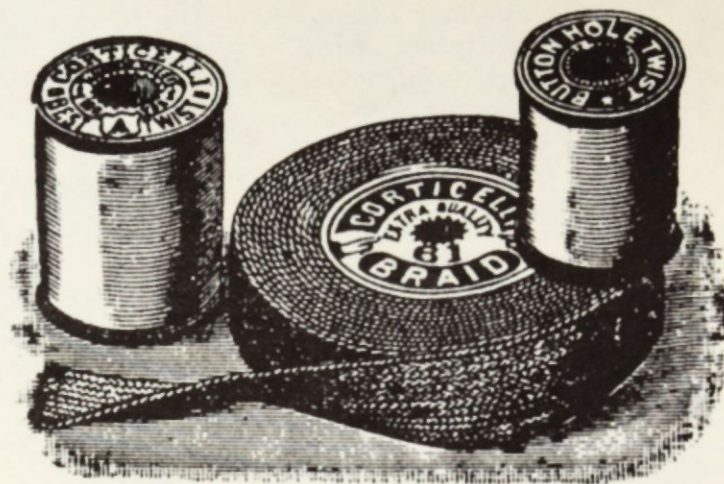
-- silk trade in the Pioneer Valley

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the Women's Silk Culture Association of the United States (April 18, 1882), there is a report of an exhibition held in Philadelphia in February 1882. Both the Nonotuck Silk Factory and Belding Bros. are mentioned: "The Nonotuck Silk Factories donated 1,000 illustrated circulars for instruction and a handsome donation of sewing silk for the fair." The fourth Annual Report of this yearly exhibit in 1884 says "Belding Bros. made a good display of their superior silk underwear and hosiery, showing that we need not depend on foreign countries for fine goods of this kind. Also a full line of sewing embroidery, and knitting silks. They exhibited samples of raw silk from several different countries showing the manner of preparing it for market in those countries."

The Corticelli Silk Co. was established in Florence in 1875 and continued to manufacture fine silk material and thread up till the 1930's. The Corticelli Silk Co. manufactured spool silks, dress silks, tailor linings, silk hosiery, embroidery silk, and silk trimmings and twist.

The most recent company related to silk was founded in this area in 1898. The company was called McCallum Hosiery and produced silk stockings during the "pre-nylon" decades.



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